Priority on aircraft landing

3961. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IAF aircrafts have to wait for signlas to land and fly as the airport give priority to private civil aircrafts;

(b) if so, the reasons for preference to give clearance to civil aircrafts over the IAF aircrafts; and

(c) what action Government plan to take with the Airports Authority of India to ensure that a balance is struck and IAF planes going on important duty/operation or VVIP assignment be given priority in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All military flights on national mission, various other important mission, VVIP flights, flights in distress and the flights declared as emergency are always accorded due priority.

Flying Institute at Hyderabad

3962. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academy, set up new academies in other parts of the country and also enhance the age of pilots in view of the growth in the aviation sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to setting up of an Uran academy at Hyderabad since there is no such Academy in Southern Region and Hyderabad is an ideal location for such academy;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of flying training institutes and flying clubs in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government propose

to upgrade Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareli at an estimated cost of Rs. 57 crores, approximately. This includes modernisation of runway, construction of additional building for hostel, hangar and office and acquisition of the adjacent Sultanpur airfield, induction of single engine and multi engine aircraft, rebuilding of helicopters. The upgradation would increase its output from 40 trainees per year to 100 trainees per year. The Government also has a proposal to set up a new flying training institute at Gondia in Maharashtra. The Government has recently enhanced the flying age of the pilots from 60 to 65 years subject to certain conditions.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Due to limitation of resources, Government does not propose to set up flying institutes under its aegis in all parts of the country.

(e) There are 39 flying training institutes in the country. This includes three flying institutes at Andhra Pradesh namely (i) Andhra Pradesh Aviation Academy, Hyderabad, (ii) Flytech Aviation Academy, Hyderabad and (iii) Wings Aviation Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.

Restoration of Air Services

†3963. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cancelled flight from New Delhi to Agra, Khujraho and Varanasi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any plan to restore the said flight keeping in view the foreign tourists visiting in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Due to severe resource constraints that Alliance Air was facing, it had to restructure and curtail some of its existing routes resulting in stoppage of air service between Delhi and Agra. Besides, the air traffic between Delhi and Agra mainly consists of foreign tourists and is seasonal in nature. Agra is only about 250 kilometers from Delhi and very well connected by road and rail. As such, operations with the jet type of aircraft in Indian Airlines' fleet are not comercially viable. In the case of operations on the Varanasi-Khajuraho-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.